



Introduced Version

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 3

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the legislative council to assign to the Natural Resources Study Committee the topic of the merits of completing the Knobstone Trail.

Miller

January 8, 2008, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 3

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the legislative council to assign to the Natural Resources Study Committee the topic of the merits of completing the Knobstone Trail.

Whereas, The Knobstone Trail is Indiana's longest footpath, passing through Clark State Forest, Elk Creek Public Fishing Area, and Jackson-Washington State Forest;

Whereas, Often compared to the Appalachian Trail, the Knobstone Trail traverses miles of rugged backcountry through beautiful and valuable hardwood forests, extending from near Deam Lake, just north of SR 60 in Clark County, to Delaney Park, just east of SR 135 in Washington County;

Whereas, The Knobstone Trail, designed in the 1970s to be Indiana's premier footpath, was intended to extend approximately 140 miles along the full length of the Knobstone Escarpment to Martinsville;

Whereas, The Knobstone Trail has provided Hoosiers and visitors from around the country with a place to view the beauty of Indiana's natural surrounding and to participate in one of their favorite forms of exercise;

Whereas, Through years of use, the Knobstone Trail has deteriorated and is in need of maintenance;

Whereas, There is also a movement to complete the Knobstone Trail to extend it to the full 140 miles envisioned by its creators;



Whereas, The cooperative efforts of the Hoosier Hikers Council and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in the 1990s have resulted in the completion of the northern third of the Knobstone Trail route from Martinsville to the northern edge of the Hoosier National Forest;

Whereas, Identification of the entire trail route by Indiana will immediately enable extension of the trail an additional 14 miles southward through the Hoosier National Forest;

Whereas, Less than 40 additional miles of land purchases and easements will be required to complete the 140 mile Knobstone Trail;

Whereas, The land acquired for the current and future Knobstone Trail will continue to yield hardwood timber, a renewable resource that generates public and private revenue as long as these forests are preserved;

Whereas, The completion of the Knobstone Trail will supply the opportunity for ecotourism in an area of Indiana that currently has too few options for economic development;

Whereas, All Hoosiers should be dedicated to promoting and protecting America's hiking trails, the natural areas that surround them, and the hiking experience itself; and

Whereas, The Knobstone Trail is an important part of our Hoosier heritage and should be maintained and completed as it was originally envisioned so that future generations of Americans can enjoy hiking for years to come: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

1 SECTION 1. That the legislative council is urged to assign to the
2 Natural Resources Study Committee the topic of the merits of
3 completing the Knobstone Trail.

4 SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the
5 Secretary of the Senate to the Director of the Indiana Department of
6 Natural Resources and the Hoosier Hikers Council.

